The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1734 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1944 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 34, NO. 27

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Here is an open letter to Thomas E. Dewey, newly nominated Republican candidate for the Presidency of the United States:

Dear Tom:—Congratulations! We always like to see a young fellow come along and you certainly have been traveling fast. As we sat in the gallery at Chicago Stadium and heard delegation after delegation pile up a record-breaking first-ballot vote for you, we were impressed not only by your popularity with your fellow Republicans but also by the efficiency of your personal organization.

Congratulations also on your forthright declaration at the morning-after press conference in Chicago that the platform adopted by the G. O. P. convention is ambiguous in spots and needs clarification. You promised to fill in the blank spaces and clear up its uncertainties in your speeches as the campaign goes on.

For your information, labor feels that the plank dealing with its own particular problems is not what it should be. We are looking to you to spell out some of the double-talk without delay. Your record as Governor of New York State has been, on the whole, friendly and sympathetic to labor. In view of that record, it would be somewhat inconsistent for you to appeal to the workers of America for their support on the basis of the disappointing labor plank handed to you by the convention.

Familiar Tune

Remember, Tom, the Republican Party has been out of power in Washington for twelve years and has gone down to three successive, humiliating defeats in the national elections.

You should know the reason why. It is because the Republican candidates failed to gain the confidence of the majority of the common people of America. Their policies and program were devised not to appeal to the great masses who work in the factories and office buildings and on the farms of our country, but to the relatively small group of business men.

If you expect to win in 1944, Tom, this has got to be changed. You have got to convince the people with the votes that you are concerned over their interests. You can do this by developing a labor program in your campaign which goes far beyond what the Republican Party platform offers.

In essence, the platform tells the people that the way to help the nation is to help business first—then every one else will be able to pick up a few crumbs. This is a familiar old tune and it is no longer popular. The American people insist that the Government put first things first—their collective and individual security.

We hope you won't be offended if we offer a few hints for your campaign. The tender is made in a helpful spirit. We are not partisan. We would like to see you and your Democratic opponent—whoever he may be—get off to an even start and let the best man win. So, here goes!

Helpful Hints

America is determined to win the war and to win the peace. Winning the war, we hope, won't be a political issue in this campaign. But the American people expect their next President to help them win the peace.

That means banishing future war through an international organization empowered to enforce the peace. It means expanded peace-time production with jobs for all at good wages. It means extension of social security through enactment of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill. It means restoration of the normal freedoms of the American people through the prompt lifting of war-time controls and the repeal of such repressive legislation as the Connally-Smith Act. It means effective measures to protect the millions of young men who will be demobilized from the armed forces and the millions of workers who will lose their jobs in war plants.

If you can go for that kind of program, Tom, you ought to make a strong race. But if you are going to limit your campaign to lambasting and criticizing the New Deal, you are more than likely to join the ranks of Hoover, Landon, Willkie and other G. O. P. has-beens.

Certainly the New Deal has made errors—some of them grievous ones. But a narrow, "hate-Roosevelt" campaign will earn you the votes only of such super-haters as Sewell Avery, Col. McCormick, Pegler, Hearst, the Pews and the Grundys and the defendants in the seditionist trial. That kind of support is fatal.

One other tip. It will be a good idea to muzzle your running mate between now and election. During his pre-convention campaign he said some harsh things about you and also about labor. If he keeps on talking in that vein, he will cost you votes.

We have tried in this letter to give you the straight goods. We hope you will not resent this advice but profit by it. This is a neutral corner. As you enter the ring, we wish you the best of luck.

Peak Labor Force Needed In 1944, Husky Men Wanted By War Plants

Washington, D. C.—It will be necessary to maintain the nation's labor force at full strength, between now and the end of 1944, Paul V. McNutt, Chairman, of the War Manpower Commission, announced.

Despite an anticipated decline in total labor requirements of the munitions industries, he said, thousands of workers will have to be placed in critical industries and areas. He warned that there will be no easing of the national labor supply during this period, adding that every man and woman now employed will continue to be needed.

A survey of the labor situation as of April 1, just completed by the Reports and Analysis Service of WMC and the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor, shows that it will be necessary during 1944 to recruit 200,000 workers not in the labor force on April 1. The survey, Mr. McNutt said, provides the latest manpower statistics available.

During the period between April 1, 1944, and January 1, 1945, the chief drain on the nation's manpower will come through the induction of 1,400,000 men needed for the armed forces, while during that period it is estimated only about 400,000 will be returned to civilian employment, he said.

Production adjustments, Mr. McNutt said, resulted in employment declines that totaled 600,000 workers by April, and present estimates indicate that many additional workers will be laid off before January 1, 1945, as the result of revised production schedules. The availability of the workers thus released is not the complete answer to the current manpower problem, the chairman said, pointing out that the greatest need now and presumably during the remaining months of the year must be for strong, husky men who are willing to move to new fields of work and take jobs in which there is now an acute shortage of labor.

Meanwhile, ten rules for the production of workers recruited for jobs in essential industries which will require their migration from one State to another were announced by the War Manpower Commission.

The conditions which must be complied with before workers will be asked to leave their homes to take employment elsewhere follow:

1. That the employer (for whom inter-regional recruitment is requested) is making full utilization of his present labor force. 2. That all local sources of labor supply have been exhausted. 3. That the need for workers is hindering, or in the near future will hinder, war production. 4. That the number of persons requested by the employer represents that employer's actual needs. 5. The employer's specifications represent the minimum specifications for performance of the job and the range of wage rates he will pay. 6. The employer will follow a positive recruitment itinerary arranged by USES, and the employer will subscribe to advertising at recruiting points, if necessary, sending his representative to make hiring commitments, or delegating hiring authority to USES. 7. If medical examinations are required, they will be given at the employer's expense at points of recruitment or at the location of the job, and, in case of the latter, the employer will provide return transportation in case of rejection of a worker. 8. The employer agrees to provide transportation for the workers, either through outright payment or by advance to be repaid from subsequent earnings, from the point of recruitment to the location of the job in all cases where this is considered necessary to the successful recruitment of workers. 9. In the event of non-acceptance of the worker upon arrival, without just cause for such non-acceptance on the part of the employer, the employer shall provide return transportation for the worker. 10. That housing facilities will be available for the worker upon his arrival at the location of the job.

MINNESOTA LABOR SENDS NEWS TO SERVICEMEN

Minneapolis.—Friendship between the men in uniform and the men in overalls is cemented with each issue of an overseas news bulletin printed by the Minnesota Federation of Labor.

The bulletin is sent to Minnesota unionists in the armed forces serving on the battlefronts. Featured in the latest issue of the paper are stories on the AFL's program to prevent post-war unemployment and its plans for rehabilitation and assistance to veterans.

SHIPBUILDING TOTALS REACH NEW HIGHS

Washington, D. C.—The Maritime Commission reported that between Aug. 1, 1937, and June 1 of this year, American shipyards produced 4,441 cargo vessels and special craft of 35,694,153 deadweight tons.

Emory S. Land, commission chairman, noted that three shipyards have completed conversion from Liberty ships to the faster Victory vessels, and disclosed that 31 of the 719 ships built during the first five months of 1944 were Victory ships. The 719 vessels, he said, totaled 7,247,557 deadweight tons.

President Signs G. I. Bill And Urges Similar Action To Aid War Workers

Washington, D. C. — President Roosevelt, in signing the "G.I." bill, called upon Congress to act for the protection of civilian war workers who will be disemployed when victory comes.

The "G. I." law, strongly backed by organized labor, accords wide benefits to demobilized soldiers, including:

1—Free educational and retraining opportunities, with living allowances while pursuing studies.

2—Government loans to veterans for the purchase or construction of homes, farms and business properties.

3—Unemployment compensation for a maximum period of a year to veterans unable to find a job when they return.

4—Improved machinery for helping demobilized soldiers and sailors to find employment.

5—Construction of all necessary additional hospital facilities and more adequate care of the disabled.

The President urged Congress to take further steps so that servicemen can obtain social security credits for the time spent in the armed forces. He also recommended that the "G.I." benefits be extended to the 155,000 members of the nation's merchant marine.

With regard to war workers, the President said:

"I hope that the Congress will also take prompt action when it reconvenes on necessary legislation which is now pending to facilitate the development of unified programs for the demobilization of civilian war workers, for their re-employment in peacetime pursuits, and for provision in cooperation with the states of appropriate unemployment benefits during the transition from war to peace. I hope also that the Congress upon its return will take prompt action on the pending legislation to facilitate the orderly disposition of surplus property.

"A sound post-war economy is a major present responsibility."

These measures are provided for in the Kilgore bill, which the American Federation of Labor has repeatedly urged Congress to enact promptly.

I.B.E.W. And Army Join In Appeals For Electricians On Key Projects

Washington, D. C.—The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers responded wholeheartedly to urgent appeals from the War Department for electricians on two "must" war projects—the Hanford Engineering Works, Pasco, Wash., and Clinton Engineering Works, Knoxville, Tenn.

President Ed. J. Brown and Secretary G. M. Bugniazet rushed messages to every local asking that members volunteer for these projects, even if that involves a sacrifice. They pointed out that "grave consequences and additional casualties" may be incurred by the armed forces if not enough electrical workers respond.

Arrangements were made by which I.B.E.W. locals will advance rail coach fares and subsistence money for men who leave for the projects. The sum is to be returned to the locals by the contractors on the undertakings.

Under a program worked out by Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson with the I.B.E.W. and the National Electrical Contractors' Association, skilled electricians are to be asked to take 90-day leaves of absence from their present jobs. Their employers are to be requested to keep the jobs open for their return and to maintain their seniority rights.

Workers who respond will get regular union scale—$1.65 an hour at Pasco with total earnings of $100.65 for a 54-hour week, and $1.50 at Knoxville, with $105 for a 60-hour week. Upon completing 90 days of work, they will get "certificates of service" from the War Department. Good food and dormitory facilities are available at both projects, the department said.

Roosevelt Praises Mary Anderson On Retirement From Women's Bureau

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt, Secretary of Labor Perkins and hundreds of friends and associates praised Mary Anderson, retiring director of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor at a testimonial dinner in her honor.

In a letter the President said:

"I am sorry to learn that you are leaving the government service but I can appreciate your wish to have more leisure after 25 years as head of the woman's bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor.

"Your work over that quarter of a century has richly earned you the retirement you are taking. You were a pioneer in advocating equal pay for women doing the same work as men and you may well be proud that your ideas as to equal opportunity and equal pay principles were recently incorporated in a recommendation adopted by the ILO conference in Philadelphia.

"Women workers, from the time of World War I, owe much to you for your fine spirit of leadership, your rich common sense, your fidelity to their interests and your successful championship of always practical rights and progress. They, I know, will join with me in well deserved praise of a capable conscientious and courageous public official who on retiring to private life leaves a monument of constructive achievement in the best interest of millions of women wage earners: I want to thank you in their behalf as well as my own, for the great services you have rendered your country so unselfishly."

Miss Frieda Miller, former New York industrial commissioner, has been nominated to succeed Miss Anderson as director of the women's bureau.

MANPOWER REFERRALS ON VOLUNTARY BASIS

Washington, D. C.—The new manpower priority referral system does not mean that a worker is compelled to take a job offered him, it was emphasized by Chairman Paul V. McNutt of the War Manpower Commission.

Mr. McNutt declared the regulations provide that workers be directed to jobs for which they are best fitted and for which wages are not substantially lower than those they have been getting.

Workers subject to priority referral, Mr. McNutt said, "shall be given freedom of choice as to the jobs they wish to accept," and the same freedom will be accorded employers as to the selection of workers they wish to hire.

MACHINISTS LOCAL GIVES CAMP TO BOY SCOUTS

Oakland, Calif.—The gift of a $10,000 campsite to the Oakland Area Boy Scout Council by East Bay Auto Machinists Lodge No. 1546, International Association of Machinists, was announced by O. R. Stephenson, president, and Ernest H. Vernon, general business agent of the local union.

The gift is a 686-acre wilderness site near Livermore on a location known as Sweetwater Springs. Purchase of the campsite for the Oakland Boy Scouts was the unanimous decision of the union membership of 2,200. A swimming pool, administration building and sanitary facilities are to be installed.

"The youth of today are the citizens of tomorrow," said Stephenson, "and we of labor are consciously aware of our responsibility for seeing that the youngsters have the finest preparation for true American citizenship we can give them."

CORSI OPENS DRIVE AGAINST CHILD LABOR

New York City.—Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi appealed to mayors of 62 cities throughout New York State to join with him in a one-week campaign to stem a rising tide of child-labor violations, which he reported rose to more than 7,000 since the first of the year.

Urging the mayors to take the lead in forming community groups representing civic, welfare, labor and employer organizations, Mr. Corsi promised that if they pursued the educational end, he would deal effectively with those found guilty of "outright defiance and callous exploitation of child labor."

G. O. P. Labor Plank Held "Disappointing" By Green

Text of G. O. P. Labor Plank

Chicago.—Following is the text of the labor plank adopted by the Republican National Convention here:

The Republican party is the historical champion of free labor. Under Republican Administrations American manufacturing developed, and American workers attained the most progressive standards of living of any workers in the world. Now the nation owes those workers a debt of gratitude for their magnificent productive effort in support of the war.

Regardless of the professed friendship of the New Deal for the workingman, the fact remains that under the New Deal American economic life is being destroyed.

The New Deal has usurped selfish and partisan control over the functions of government agencies where labor relationships are concerned. The continued perversion of the Wagner act by the New Deal menaces the purposes of the law and threatens to destroy collective bargaining completely and permanently.

The long series of Executive Orders and bureaucratic decrees reveal a deliberate purpose to substitute for contractual agreements of employers and employes the political edicts of a New Deal bureaucracy. Labor would thus remain organized only for the convenience of the New Deal in enforcing its orders and inflicting its whims upon labor and industry.

We condemn the conversion of administrative boards, ostensibly set up to settle industrial disputes, into instruments for putting into effect the financial and economic theories of the New Deal.

We condemn the freezing of wage rates at arbitrary levels and the binding of men to their jobs as destructive to the advancement of a free people. We condemn the repeal by Executive Order of the laws secured by the Republican party to abolish "contract labor" and peonage. We condemn the gradual but effective creation of a labor front as but one of the New Deal's steps toward a totalitarian state.

We pledge an end to political trickery in the administration of labor laws and the handling of labor disputes; and equal benefits on the basis of equality to all labor in the administration of labor controls and laws, regardless of political affiliation.

The Department of Labor has been emasculated by the New Deal. Labor bureaus, agencies and committees are scattered far and wide, in Washington and throughout the country, and have no semblance of systematic or responsible organization. All governmental labor activities must be placed under the direct authority and responsibility of the Secretary of Labor. Such labor bureaus as are not performing a substantial and definite service in the interest of labor must be abolished.

The Secretary of Labor should be a representative of labor. The office of the Secretary of Labor was created under a Republican President, William Howard Taft. It was intended that a representative of labor should occupy this cabinet office. The present administration is the first to disregard this intention.

The Republican party accepts the purposes of the National Labor Relations Act, the Wage and Hour Act, the Social Security Act and all other Federal statutes designed to promote and protect the welfare of American working men and women, and we promise a fair and just administration of these laws.

American well-being is indivisible. Any national program which injures the national economy inevitably injures the wage-earner. The American labor movement and the Republican party, while continuously striving for the betterment of labor's status, reject the communistic and New Deal concept that a single group can benefit while the general economy suffers.

Republicans Missed Great Opportunity, Declares AFL Leader

Chicago.—"Disappointing" is the word for the Republican Party's labor stand as reflected in the platform adopted by the national convention here, AFL President William Green declared.

"The Republican Party has missed a great opportunity," the AFL leader commented dryly to newspapermen after reading the platform recommendations.

He criticized the language of the G. O. P. labor recommendations as "general in character and susceptible of varied interpretations." Particularly regrettable, Mr. Green said, was the party's denial of labor's request for repeal of the "notorious Connally-Smith Act."

Before returning to Washington, Mr. Green indicated American Federation of Labor leaders will examine carefully the statements made by the Republican Presidential nominee, Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York, during the coming campaign for further light on what the Republican Party has to offer the workers of the nation.

In his acceptance speech before the convention, Gov. Dewey emphasized his determination, if elected, to provide jobs for all during the post-war period and assailed the Roosevelt Administration for having to depend on the war to solve the nation's unemployment problems. He also accused the New Deal of "wrangling, bungling and confusion" in handling labor relations and other vital matters, such as price, control, rationing, manpower and taxation.

Careful examination of the G. O. P. labor plank shows that only one of the American Federation of Labor's recommendations to the Resolutions Committee was wholly and clearly endorsed. This was the proposal for reorganization of the Department of Labor under a Secretary of Labor who really represents labor.

The platform did not call for amendment of the National Labor Relations Act to protect craft workers, as the AFL asked, but vaguely pledged "an end to political trickery in the administration of labor laws and the handling of labor disputes." It was pointed out that this language might very well have been intended as support for Sewell Avery's recalcitrant stand against the National War Labor Board in the Montgomery-Ward case.

The Republican Party according to the platform, "accepts the purposes of the National Labor Relations Act, the Social Security Act, the Wage and Hour Act and all other Federal statutes designed to promote the welfare of American working men and women, and we promise a fair and just administration of these laws."

But this statement fell far short of endorsement of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell social security amendments sponsored by the AFL. In fact, the "security" plank of the platform flatly rejected the AFL demand for an effective national employment service by urging the return of public employment systems "to the States at the earliest possible time."

During the early part of the convention, William L. Hutcheson, president of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America, announced his candidacy for the Republican Vice-Presidential nomination. However, his name was not presented to the convention as the delegates stampeded to a unanimous nomination of Governor John Bricker of Ohio, for Vice President. In the pre-convention campaign, Gov. Bricker made several speeches which attacked labor's war record.

Buy Bonds For Soldier Members, Labor Editor Advises Local Unions

Cleveland.—A proposal that members of every local union buy a war bond for each member in the armed services was put before the International Stereotypers' and Electrotypers' Union by James J. Kelly, editor of the organization's monthly journal.

In a letter to AFL President William Green, Mr. Kelly asked that this idea be suggested to all other AFL organizations as a means of promoting the Fifth War Loan Drive and of showing "our membership in the services that we appreciate the sacrifices they are making for us." He described his plan as follows:

"An ideal way of doing this would be for a local union to organize a War Bond pool. Drawings could be held weekly or semi-monthly. A War Bond, the denomination to be decided by the local union, could be awarded the winner and with the surplus funds another War Bond could be purchased for a member in the service, until each member in uniform receives a bond."

Emphasizing the benefits in good will and morale which his plan would bring about, Mr. Kelly added:

"The working man is always the working man's best friend. If every union affiliated with the AFL sponsored the above idea for their members in the service, the anti-labor interests would have one hell of a time trying to smear any labor union to servicemen."

Bridges Held Communist By Court; His Deportation Order Sustained

San Francisco.—Harry Bridges, West Coast CIO leader, received a second rebuff in his Federal Court fight to avoid deportation to his native Australia as an undesirable alien who had been a member of the Communist party.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in a three-to-two decision, upheld a District Court decision of Feb. 8, 1943, in which Judge Martin I. Welsh denied Mr. Bridges' petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

Attorney General Francis Biddle ordered Mr. Bridges' deportation on the grounds that he had been a Communist and that the party was "an organization that believes in, advises, advocates and teaches overthrow by force and violence of the Government of the United States."

The majority opinion of the court stated flatly that the record in the case showed "evidence firstly that the appellant had been a member of the Communist party since he entered this country and secondly, that the Communist party believes in, advocates and teaches the overthrow by force and violence of the Government of the United States."

F. D. R. HITS OPA BILL BUT WILL NOT VETO IT

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt announced he would sign the bill extending price control with great misgivings because he considered some of the amendments adopted by Congress likely to have an inflationary effect.

AFL President William Green urged the President to send a "strong statement" to Congress condemning these amendments which lift controls from a number of basic elements in the cost of living and cripple OPA enforcement procedures. He assailed particularly amendments which would invite a "stampede of petitions for rent increases."

While conceding that the bill, as passed, would create "a lot of problems," OPA Administrator Bowles somewhat optimistically expressed confidence in the ability of the Government to "hold the price line." He pointed out that the worst of the proposed amendments had been defeated by Congress.

EXPERTS FIND BLS UNDERSTATES COSTS

Washington, D. C.—Three independent experts working for the President's Cost of Living Committee reported that the Bureau of Labor Statistics index "grossly understates" the rise in living costs.

AFL Secretary - Treasurer George Meany declared the report "deals a solar plexus blow to the Administration's arguments for maintaining the vicious Little Steel wage formula."

The experts found the BLS yardstick doesn't apply to about half the families of the nation and doesn't include many added expenses forced upon workers by war-time conditions. If the cost of living means the amount of money a family spends for the commodities and services it buys, then "the widespread opinion that the index grossly understates the rise in the cost of living is justified," their report held.

ACCIDENTS REPORTED CUT IN WAR INDUSTRIES

New York City.—A reduction in industrial accidents in war plants throughout the country of 6 per cent so far this year was reported by E. G. Quesnel, regional representative of the National Committee for the Conservation of Manpower in War Industries.

Mr. Quesnel, who is also general manager of the Greater New York Safety Council, said that a cut of 1,000,000 below last year's accident total was the aim.

In listing the reduction of 6 per cent in accidents so far this year, Mr. Quesnel pointed out that 18,000 persons had lost their lives in industry in 1943 and an additional 23,500 employes had lost their lives outside of working hours.